

1. The process for automatically adjusting a time period of a time slot in a communication channel, comprising the steps of:

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determining whether data are being transmitted in a time slot in said communication channel;

adjusting said time slot to a first time period if data are being transmitted in said time slot; and

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adjusting said time slot to a second time period if data are not being transmitted in said time slot.

2. The process of claim 1 wherein said first time period is greater than said second time period.

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3. The process of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining whether the data being transmitted comprises a particular data type.

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4. The process of claim 3 further comprising the step of adjusting said time slot to a third time period, if said data comprises a particular data type.

5. The process of claim 4 wherein said first time period is greater than said second time period.

6. The process of claim 5 wherein said third time period is greater than said first time period.

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7. The process of automatically adjusting a time period of a time slot in a data channel, comprising the steps of:

determining the content of the time slot in said data channel; and

adjusting the time period of the time slot in response to the content of the time slot.

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8. The process of claim 7 further comprising the step of increasing said time period of said time slot when a particular data type is being transmitted in said time slot.

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9. The process of claim 7 further comprising the step of decreasing said time period of said time slot when a particular data type is being transmitted in said time slot.

15 10. The process of claim 7 further comprising the step of decreasing said time period of said time slot when no data are being transmitted in said time slot.

11. A system for communicating data among different units,
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a data channel having a plurality of time slots for transmitting and receiving data;

25 each unit comprising a microprocessor coupled to said data channel for monitoring and processing data; and

said microprocessor adjusting a time period of one of said time slots depending on content of the time slot.

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Sub A4 12. The system of claim 11 wherein said microprocessor adjusting the time slot to a first time period if the data are

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transmitted, and adjusting the time slot to a second time period if no data are being transmitted.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein said first time period is greater than said second time period.

14. The system of claim 12 wherein said microprocessor further determining whether the data being transmitted comprise a particular data type.

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15. The system of claim 14 wherein said controller adjusts said time slot to a third time period, if the data comprise a particular data type.

15 16. The system of claim 15 wherein said first time period is greater than said second time period.

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17. The system of claim 16 wherein said third time period is greater than said first time period.